

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Black Mountain Complex Grows Overnight**

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Kingman, AZ (11:30 am)--The Union Fire, one of four fires in the Black Mountain Complex between Kingman and Bullhead City on public lands, grew to an estimated 4,500 acres by Friday morning. "The fire was active until well past midnight and started again early this morning," said Bureau of Land Management Assistant Fire Management Officer Mike Trent. Firefighters will attempt to push the Union Fire towards a 2005 burn (the Twin Mills Fire) while aircraft and other crews work the eastern flank to prevent flames from circling around the old burn. "This fire will be active throughout the day and folks will see lots of smoke, but we think we have a good idea of where's it's headed and what it's going to do," said Trent.

The Air Ranch Fire is estimated at 300 acres and has slowed considerably after burning into the 2005 burn. This fire should also provide an obstacle to the Union Fire. "The Air Ranch Fire is a blessing in disguise as it will make it much tougher for the Union Fire to skirt around the west side of our old 2005 fire," said Ron Hooper, Acting Field Manager for the Bureau of Land Management.

The Secret Fire is now 600 acres, but the spread towards structures has been stopped and the only active fire is confined to rocky ridgetops in the Mt. Nutt Wilderness. The Nutt Fire, also in the Wilderness, is 100 acres and has been the least active of the four fires.

"No structures are threatened on any of the four fires," said Tony Sciacca, Incident Commander of the Arizona Central West Zone Incident Management Team, which assumed command of the Complex early this morning.

Firefighter traffic will be heavy along Highway 68 and throughout Golden Valley. Drivers in the area are urged to use extra caution around heavy vehicles like engines and troop carriers.

Smoke will be visible from Bullhead City, Laughlin, Golden Valley, and Kingman throughout the day.

For more information:

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